

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3655
INFO AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12069

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PINS, TH
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION NEAR AID PROJECT SITES

REF: (A) STATE 102605 (B) BANGKOK 10508 (C) BANGKOK 11373
(D) BANGKOK 11342 (UDORN 92)

1. REFTELS C AND D SPELL OUT IN SOME DETAIL PRESSURE ON SOUTHERN PORTION OF NORTHEAST THAILAND FROM THAI COMMUNIST INSURGENTS AND KHMER ROUGE OPERATING OUT OF BORDERING AREAS OF CAMBODIA. SECURITY SITUATION DURING PRESENT DRY SEASON HAS BEEN MOST SERIOUS IN BAN KRUAT AND LAHANSAI DISTRICTS OF BURIRAM PROVINCE. CONSUL UDORN REPORTS (REF D) THAT INSURGENTS ARE LIKELY TO STEP UP ACTIVITIES IN KAP CHEUN SUB-DISTRICT, PRASAT DISTRICT, SURIN PROVINCE; IN KHUN HAN DISTRICT OF SISAKET PROVINCE; AND IN NAM YEUN DISTRICT OF UBON PROVINCE. AID AND IBRD SUPPORTED PROJECTS IN BAN KRUAT (BURIRAM) AND PRASAT (SURIN) THEREFORE CONTINUE TO BE SUBJECT TO RISK OF HARRASSMENT OR DAMAGE, UNLESS SECURITY FOR SETTLEMENTS IMPROVES.

2. WE ARE ADVISED THAT RTG HAS ALREADY PROVIDED INCREASED PROTECTION FOR BAN KRUAT SETTLEMENT, FOLLOWING RECENT ATTACK, AND PLANS TO DO THE SAME FOR PRASAT IN
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NEAR FUTURE. HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT BANGKOK PRESS REPORTS APR 27 THAT THAI INSURGENTS, SUPPORTED BY KHMER ROUGE, ATTACKED BORDER SETTLEMENT IN BAN KRUAT APR 26 AND BURNED 15 HOUSES.

3. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN EASTERN UBON PROVINCE NEAR LAM DOM NOI AND LAM DOM YAI PROJECTS MAY INCREASE IN COMING MONTHS. SEVERAL

OF THE AID SERICULTURE, IRRIGATION, LAND SETTLEMENT, AND RAINFED CROP PROJECTS, BOTH PLANNED AND ONGOING, INCLUDING KUCHINARAI AND LAM PAO IN KALASIN PROVINCE, LAM NAM OUN IN SAKON NAKHON PROVINCE, AND MUKDAHAN IN NAKHON PHANOM PROVINCE, ARE LOCATED NEAR REMOTE AREAS OF THE UPPER NORTHEAST WHERE THAI INSURGENTS HAVE OPERATED OVER PAST DECADE. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO RPT NO INDICATION THAT SECURITY SITUATION THERE IS LIKELY TO CHANGE APPRECIABLY IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. USAID SUPPORTED LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN MAE CHAEM DISTRICT OF CHIANG MAI PROVINCE, PROPOSED FOR FY 1979, IS REMOTE FROM AREA OF INSURGENT ACTIVITY AND SHOULD POSE NO RPT NO SECURITY PROBLEMS.

5. THE THAI INSURGENCY IS WATCHED CLOSELY BY THE EMBASSY AND BY USAID/THAILAND FOR THE IMPACT IT COULD HAVE ON USAID PROJECTS. TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, AND CONSISTENT WITH DEVELOPMENT OF A USAID PROGRAM RELEVANT TO THAI NEEDS, USAID/THAILAND WILL SEEK TO LIMIT ITS PROJECTS TO AREAS REMOTE FROM THE THREAT OF INTERRUPTION OR DAMAGE BY INSURGENTS.

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